GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2147
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2005
VOTING RIGHTS TO OVERSEAS INDIANS
Thomas Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposed to grant voting rights to Overseas Indians;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken in this direction?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (OSCAR FERNANDES)

(a) to (c) Overseas Indian include Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) who are citizens of other countries and Non-Resident Indians (NRI) who are citizens of India still. To enable NRIs to become eligible to vote in general elections, the Representation of the People Act has to be suitably amended. A proposal to this effect is under consideration of the Government.